

FOOTBALL PREVIEW ISSUE

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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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ON THE COVER: Haynes King, Max Johnson and Conner Weigman battle to earn the starting quarterback job. Photo by Rob Havens '88

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Howdy Ags!

I am writing this publisher's note on the day that the Aggies were eliminated from the College World Series. When I was younger and the Aggies lost, it would take me a few days to get over it. But today when the last out was made, the emotion that came over me was pride. I am so proud of what this team has accomplished this year.

In 1989, I went to almost every home baseball game, and no matter what the score was I just knew that we were going to win. Game after game, that team was resilient and had the heart of a champion. Then on one fateful day, LSU and Ben McDonald beat us twice on the same day to end our season. Those losses still hurt. But that season made me fall in love with Aggie Baseball.

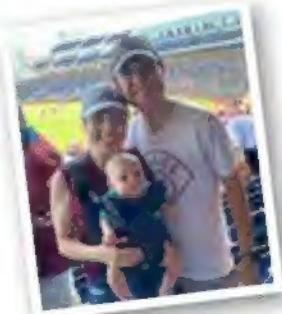
Fifteen years ago I was living in Lubbock with my wife and three young sons, and I decided to take my two oldest to College Station to watch an Aggie Baseball series. We hung out in Aggieland, watching baseball and taking a tour around campus. My boys fell in love with Aggie Baseball too. They said, "Dad, we want to live here!" I responded "Tell your mom!" Just a few months later we moved to College Station. My boys grew up, went to and graduated from A&M, and it was the best move we ever made.

Aggie Baseball holds a special place in my heart. I credit it for bringing me home to Aggieland. Watching this year's team come together and win eight SEC series, a Regional Championship, a Super Regional Championship and two wins in Omaha has been the greatest ride of my life. Watching this team beat tu on the biggest stage in College Baseball will be a memory I'll never forget. To top it off, my middle son and his wife and my five-month old grandson were there to see it.

I feel for these guys because I know they wanted to win it all. But I think I speak for all Aggies when I say "Thanks for the amazing season! We are proud of you!"

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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C-MIKE

Our former cover boy and Aggie great Christine Michael celebrates a touchdown during the Aggie Legends game that took place during halftime of the Maroon & White game. The competitive fires still burn bright in the Super Bowl Champion that played in the NFL from 2013-2020. No one loves coming back to Aggieland more than C-Mike, who still gives it 100% and entertains the crowd throughout the game with his infectious smile and signature back flips after scores! Photo by Rob Havens '88

PRINGLES

IN

MAHA



SCHLOSS
&
THE BOYS
TO
OMAHA

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES, COME ON

The 12thMan showed up and did their part to help the baseball team get to Omaha! After a five-hour game the night before, the crowd showed back up on a blistering hot day and yelled through more than four hours of the Super Championship Game. When Troy Claunch threw the ball to Jack Moss after the final strike out by Jacob Palische, the crowd went wild. Streamers, confetti, and bubbles filled the air along with two homemade banners announcing Schloss & the Boys were headed to Omaha with Pringles in tote! Photo by Rob Havens '88



SNAPSHOT

2 TIME ALL-AMERICAN

He was a 26...
ided by...son
s Team on the
t Championship
for the Aggie
y Rob Haver



The 15th ranked Aggies entered the NCAA Tournament with high hopes under first-year head coach Gerrod Chadwell. It was the team's first appearance since the 2018-2019 season. Jennie Park finished runner-up at the Franklin Regional, leading the team to an amazing six-stroke comeback that earned them a spot in the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2015. The Aggies had an outstanding run as they battled through four rounds of the tournament, and clinched their first ever birth in Championship match play as the number 3 seed of the final eight teams. They took on the Seminoles of Florida State and defeated them 3-2 to advance to the final four. The Ags dropped their last match to Oregon, finishing the tourney tied for third and ending the season with the best finish in program history.

MEN'S GOLF

The 12th-ranked men's team carded a 4-under 860 in the Bryan Regional to advance to the NCAA Championships. The guys battled hard, but they missed the 15-team cutline by two strokes and finished in 16th place. Sam Bennett went on to compete as an individual and placed 10th at the NCAA Championships, after posting an impressive 6-under 64 in the fourth round. He also qualified to play in the US Open and was one of only four amateurs to make the weekend cut.

BASEBALL

The Aggies had a miracle season that will be remembered for a long time. Under first-year Coach Jim Schlossnagle, they won eight conference series in the SEC. They earned a #5 national seed and hosted a regional here in College Station. The team won all three games, including a 15-9 comeback victory over arch nemesis TCU in the final game. They swept the #9 Cardinals from Louisville in the Super Regional and advanced to the College World Series. In Omaha, they went 2-2, beating Texas and Notre Dame to finish as one of the final four teams.



SCOREBOARD



COACH JO EVANS

When the Aggies defeated the Gophers, it was Coach Evans' 1300th victory as a head coach. She became only the ninth coach in D1 softball history to accomplish the feat. The team gave her a Gatorade shower in celebration of her accomplishments. The day after the regional, Athletic Director Ross Bjork announced that Coach Evans' contract would not be renewed. She led the team to a record of 987 wins, 503 losses and 2 ties during her 26 years as head coach. The Aggies under her leadership had 22 post-season appearances and three trips to the Women's College World Series. She has been a class act, and we wish her the best.



MORGAN
SMITH



KATIE
WOOLEY



COURTNEY
LEE

SOFTBALL

Texas A&M earned a spot in the Norman Regional of the NCAA tournaments and defeated Minnesota 5-1 in the first game. The victory gave the Aggies the opportunity to face the number one team in the nation on their own field. The team gave the Sooners all they could handle but they fell just short at 2-3. The ladies went on to beat the Gophers once again 10-7 but suffered a tough loss to the Sooners in the championship game to finish the season.



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SCOREBOARD



MAROON & WHITE GAME

The 12th Man was treated to a preview of what we can expect this fall, as the team battled against each other in the annual Maroon & White game on April 8th. Everyone in attendance was excited to see our three quarterbacks make their case to be QB1 this season. Haynes King, Max Johnson and Conner Weigman all had good moments as they moved the ball up and down the field. Jimbo was pleased to get out of the scrimmage with no injuries and saw good things on both sides of the ball.



DOWNOVER

2022 FOOTBALL PREVIEW



BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Aggies head into the 2022 campaign with high hopes and great expectations. The nation is watching as Coach Fisher and his staff are stacking top ten classes year after year, including this year's class which was ranked as the best in the history of D1 football. Some have questioned how they are doing it, but if you were at last year's Alabama game in Kyle Field you know how. It is easily the best atmosphere in college football. The facilities are the best, and it's not a 3 or 4 year decision to come here. It's a 40 year decision as the Aggie Network will be your greatest asset for the rest of your life.

It is the best kept secret in college sports as Jimbo has said. He admits,

"I didn't get it until I came here!" As the school song says, "There's a spirit can ne'er be told." For years Aggies have said, "From the outside looking in you can't understand it And from inside looking out, you can't explain it."

For several years, schools would come to Kyle and we would marvel at their size and speed. Now, when you go to a game, you see that same size and speed wearing maroon and white

This year's squad is already being ranked as high as No. 5 in the preseason polls. With Miami, Florida and a trip to Alabama on the schedule, there is no margin for error as the Aggies hope to make it into the CFP final four.

The biggest story coming out of spring camp was the battle to be QB1. Most expected Haynes King to be the one after he earned the starting spot last year before the season-ending injury. Jimbo loves King's mobility and speed, which allows him to extend plays and run for positive yards if the play breaks down. He can also spin it with the best of them.

We all know how talented Max Johnson is after we saw him break our hearts last year with a last minute touchdown that beat us in Baton Rouge. He has the most experience on the field and a great arm. He also showed us in the spring game that he has mobility and can run down the field for big yards.

Finally, there is Conner Weigman, the future of Aggie football. He arrived on campus and showed he is ready to fight for some playing time. Jimbo raves about his maturity and decision-making ability beyond his years. He also has a great arm and is just a winner.

Jimbo sees the battle continuing through fall camp and as he has explained in the past the team pretty much decides who gets the job. Whoever wins the team, wins the job.

The Aggies lost Isaiah Spiller to the NFL Draft, but Devon Achane is ready to lead the team in the backfield. He spent the spring improving his speed on the track, but now he will put on the pads and post big numbers for the Aggies this fall. Earnest Crownover, Amari Daniels & LJ Johnson Jr took spring reps and fought for playing time as well.

Arius Smith returns again this year and will be all over the field. He will be in the backfield or lined up as a wide receiver or returner. When he gets the ball in his hands, he is a difference maker. We expect him to have an outstanding season.

Jalen Preston is a great story, as the guy left high school with great expectations and it took a while for him to get meaningful reps in games. Some players in his position would have transferred, but he kept

his head down and kept working. He scored his first touchdown vs LSU last year and then scored a second one in the same game. He has earned a breakout year.

Caleb Chapman transferred to Oregon, and Demond Demas had some problems with the law and left Texas A&M. Moose Muhammad III is back along with Chase Lane, Yulkeith Brown & Devin Price. Incoming freshman Evan Stewart could be a starter from day one. He is electric and we expect big things from him.

Jalen Wydermyer left the program to try and play in the NFL, and Baylor Cupp transferred to Texas Tech. So the tight end competition should be interesting. Incoming freshman Jake Johnson already looks like a veteran player at 6'5, 225 and was probably a big reason why Cupp decided to move on. Donovan Green 6'4, 235 arrived this summer and has the talent to play right away. Veteran Max Wright gives 100% every play, and Blake Smith caught a touchdown in the spring game. Jimbo's stable of tight ends is quite impressive.

The Aggies lost NFL first round selection Kenyon Green off of the offensive line as well as Jahmir Johnson. The Aggies return Layden Robinson, Bryce Foster, Aki Ogunbiyi, Ruben Fatheree II and company, who are now under the direction of new offensive line coach Steve Addazio. New signees added to this group include Kam Dewberry, Hunter Erb, Mark Nabou and PJ Williams.

The defense is now under the direction of D.J. Durkin, who was co-defensive coordinator at Ole Miss last season. Coach Elko was hired as the new head coach of the Duke Blue Devils. The Ags lost five defensive starters from last year's team, but

guys are ready to step up and the new recruits will help our defense be the best for years to come.

The Ags lost Peavy, Johnson, Leah and Clemons from the defensive line. Back are McKinnley Jackson and Isaiah Raikes, Shemar Turner, Adarius Jones, Fadil Diggs, Donell Harris, Braedon Mowry, Tumrnise Adeleye, and more. Jimbo and his staff signed eight five-star recruits and 19 four-star recruits in the new class. One of those signees was the number one overall recruit in the nation, Walter Noen.

Also joining this group are newcomers Anthony Lucas, Gabriel Brownlow-Dind, Shemar Stewart, Lebbeus Overton, Enai White, Malick Sylla, Jadon Scarlett and Micaiah Overton. There are not enough spots to get everyone on the field but the D-Line is clearly the strength of this team and the depth here is unbelievable.

The linebackers returning this year are seniors Andre White and Chris Russell, junior Taran Lee and sophomore Edgerrin Cooper. The Aggies lost Aaron Hansford and Antonio Doyle but added Ish Harris and Martrell Harris in the new class.

One of the most exciting players on the team and author of "The Hit 2" during last year's game vs Prairie View A&M is Antonio Johnson. Dave Campbell's Texas Football named him the #1 defensive back in the state of Texas. Tyree Chappell and Demani Richardson also joined that top ten list as Texas Football No. 5 and No. 6 respectively. Myles Jones, Deuce Harmon, Brian George, Jaylon Jones, Jardin Gilbert, and Dion Pinkard return this year. The defensive back position has quickly become one of the strengths of

this team as well, as the new class brought in Bryce Anderson, Smoke Bouie, Marquis Groves-Killebrew, Denver Harris, Jarred Kerr, Jacoby Mathews and Bobby Taylor.

Seth Small has moved on to the NFL, but Caden Davis is primed and ready to fill his spot in the kicking game. Nik Constantinou returns as the Aggie punter from down under. Devon Achane, who had a 96-yard kickoff return last year for a huge touchdown vs Alabama, will be a dangerous weapon again this year. And Ainius Smith, who had a 95-yard punt return for a touchdown vs South Carolina, will be fielding punts again this season.

Texas A&M has the talent and resolve to take the next step this fall and compete for championships. If we can stay healthy and limit mistakes, the sky is the limit for this team. ■



2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. SAM HOUSTON
SEP. 10	VS. APPALACHIAN STATE
SEP. 17	VS MIAMI
SEP 24	VS ARKANSAS
OCT. 1	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE
OCT 8	@ ALABAMA
OCT 22	@ SOUTH CAROLINA
OCT. 29	VS. OLE MISS
NOV. 5	VS. FLORIDA
NOV. 12	@ AUBURN
NOV. 19	'VS. UMASS'
NOV. 26	VS. LSL

2021 RECORD

OVERALL	8 - 4
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	6 - 1
AWAY	2 - 2
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

01

SAM HOUSTON



Texas A&M begins the 2022 season with high expectations. The Aggies did lose a lot of starters, but the depth that Fisher has accumulated since he's been here should help as the Ags take the field in Game 1. Our first opponent comes from just up the road, and when I say the Aggies lost a lot of starters, it really pales in comparison to the Bearkats who lost 85% of their players from their 2 deep from a year ago. Under Head Coach K.C. Keeler, they went 11-1 last year. They have a major rebuild job as they come into town. They will have to replace quarterback Eric Schmid, who led the team the last three seasons. Keegan Shoemaker projects to be the new signal caller, and Dezmon Jackson will lead the rushing game. If Adeyi returns at wide out after averaging over 13 yards a catch as a sophomore, Keeler's high octane offense will have a lot of new faces this year, as will the defense. The Bearkats do have leading tackler Trevor Williams back at the linebacker position. He had 78 tackles for Sam last year, and they will need his leadership this fall.


2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	@ TEXAS A&M	OCT. 15	@ EASTERN KENTUCKY
SEP. 10	VS. NORTHERN ARIZONA	OCT. 22	@ TARLETON
SEP. 17	VS. TEXAS A&M COMMERCE	NOV. 5	@ JTAH TECH
SEP. 24	@ UIW	NOV. 12	VS. SOUTHERN UTAH
OCT. 1	VS. STEPHEN F AUSTIN	NOV. 19	@ LAMAR
OCT. 8	VS. ABILENE CHRISTIAN		

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	11 - 1
CONFERENCE	5 - 0
HOME	6 - 1
AWAY	4 - 0
NEUTRAL	1 - 0

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAM HOUSTON STATE ATHLETICS

02

APPALACHIAN STATE



The Mountaineers are the kind of team that you cannot take lightly. Just ask the 2007 Michigan Wolverine team that got beat by them 34-32 in Ann Arbor. They are a pesky team with nothing to lose. They won 10 games last year, and Head Coach Shawn Clark has recruited a ton of talented kids for this season. The offense finished second in total offense and scoring last season, and they could be even better this year. They return all but one player on the offensive line, and starting QB Chase Brice has settled into the starting role. They also have three solid running backs in Nate Noel, Camerun Peoples and Dietrich Harrington. App State lost a lot of the defense last year, but Trey Cobb returns at linebacker where he was the second leading tackler on the team. Nick Hampton returns as the teams best pass rusher. The defense takes pride in stopping the run and will have to continue that history for a successful season. The Aggies have more talent but can't underestimate these guys who are motivated to ruin our season.


2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. NORTH CAROLINA	OCT. 19	VS. GEORGIA STATE
SEP. 10	@ TEXAS A&M	OCT. 29	VS. ROBERT MORRIS
SEP. 17	VS. TROY	NOV. 3	@ COASTAL CAROLINA
SEP. 24	VS. JAMES MADISON	NOV. 12	@ MARSHALL
OCT. 1	VS. THE CITADEL	NOV. 19	VS. OLD DOMINION
OCT. 8	@ TEXAS STATE	NOV. 26	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN

2021 RECORD

OVERALL	10 - 4
CONFERENCE	7 - 1
HOME	7 - 0
AWAY	3 - 3
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

PHOTOS COURTESY OF APPALACHIAN STATE ATHLETICS

03

MIAMI



The forecast calls for the Hurricanes to come to town on September 17th. The U has a new head coach in Mario Cristobal, who is coming home after a successful stint at Oregon. He was born in Miami, played there, and was an assistant there. Now, his goal is to put them back at the top of the college football world. He will start by improving the offensive line, which was his position in college and is his natural coaching position. He has already added to the current group some help via the transfer portal of players from Oregon in Jonathan Denis and Logan Sagapolu. He also added Henry Parrish, a transfer running back from Ole Miss, to boost the running game. Tyler Van Dyke returns under center after throwing for almost 3,000 yards and 26 touchdowns last year. Kevin Steele takes over as the defensive coordinator and will have his hands full as he works to resurrect the Canes defense. Cristobal shopped around the portal to fill holes there as well, as he signed players from West Virginia, USC, UCLA and UAB.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIAMI ATHLETICS



SEP. 3	VS. BETHUNE-COOKMAN	OCT. 1	VS. DUKE
SEP. 10	VS. SOUTHERN MISS	OCT. 29	@ VIRGINIA
SEP. 17	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 5	VS. FLORIDA STATE
SEP. 24	VS. MIDDLE TENN. ST.	NOV. 12	@ GEORGIA TECH
OCT. 1	VS. NORTH CAROLINA	NOV. 19	@ CLEMSON
OCT. 15	@ VIRGINIA TECH	NOV. 26	VS. PITTSBURGH



OVERALL	7-5
CONFERENCE	5-3
HOME	5-2
AWAY	2-2
NEUTRAL	0-1

04 ARKANSAS



The Hogs finally beat the Aggies after a long drought of winess seasons against them. In his second year, Coach Pittman fielded a very experienced team, and the Aggies gave up a couple of big plays that cost them the game. In the off-season, the Hogs had more than a dozen players transfer and a handful of players declare for the draft. Including graduates, this year's team will be quite different than the one the Aggies faced last year. KJ Jefferson returns under center. He's a big kid that led the team in rushing. Raheim Sanders and Dominique Johnson will carry the load in the rushing game. Wide receiver Jadon Haselwood from Oklahoma transferred in to replace Treylon Burks who moved onto the NFL. On the defensive side of the ball, Zack Williams returns with the most sacks from last year's team along with Bumper Pool, who is one of the best linebackers in the conference. Jalen Catalon will be roaming the backfield again after missing half of last year due to injury. Pittman also added Latavious Brinn from Georgia to play safety and Dwight McGlothern from LSU to play corner.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS ATHLETICS



SEP. 3	VS. CINCINNATI	OCT. 15	@ BYU
SEP. 10	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	OCT. 29	@ AUBURN
SEP. 17	VS. MISSOURI STATE	NOV. 5	VS. LIBERTY
SEP. 24	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 12	VS. LSU
OCT. 1	VS. ALABAMA	NOV. 19	VS. OLE MISS
OCT. 8	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	NOV. 25	@ MUSKOGEE



OVERALL	9-4
CONFERENCE	4-4
HOME	6-1
AWAY	1-3
NEUTRAL	2-0

05

MISSISSIPPI STATE



The loss last year to the Bull Dogs was a tough pill to swallow. Zach Calzada had a tough game as he was adapting to being QB1. Mike Leach's offense was clicking, as Will Rogers threw for 408 yards and three touchdowns. It looked like a 7-on 7 game as he threw quick pass after quick pass connecting on 46 of 59 passes. The Aggies held the Dogs to just 30 yards on the ground on 17 carries. We can expect more of the same this year. Leach's gimmick offense will have Rogers under center again, and the Ags will have to figure out the best way to stop them. New defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin held the Dogs to only 336 yards through the air and 84 on the ground when he played against them last year as DC of Ole Miss with a much less talented team. Let's hope Durkin is the difference this year. Mississippi State's defense is one of the best Leach has ever had. Leach is known for not spending much time worrying about the defense and just trying to outscore you, but this D can play. Linebackers Jett Johnson and Nathaniel Watson return as last year's top tacklers.

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. MEMPHIS	OCT. 15	@ KENTUCKY
SEP. 10	@ ARIZONA	OCT. 22	@ ALABAMA
SEP. 17	@ LSU	NOV. 5	VS. AUBURN
SEP. 24	VS. BOWLING GREEN	NOV. 12	VS. GEORGIA
OCT. 1	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 19	VS. E. TENNESSEE ST
OCT. 8	VS. ARKANSAS	NOV. 24	@ OLE MISS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MISSISSIPPI STATE ATHLETICS

2021 RECORD

OVERALL	7 - 6
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	4 - 3
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

06 ALABAMA



Last summer, Jimbo answered a question about if Nick Saban would have to retire before he could beat Alabama. He responded, "we're gonna beat his ass while he's there." The Aggies wasted no time in making Jimbo a man of his word, as the Aggies beat the Tide 41-38 in a historic game that we will always remember. Jimbo followed up that game by beating Saban in the recruiting war. Saban ignited a controversy when he claimed the Aggies bought their entire recruiting class and Bama didn't buy one player. Jimbo had a presser addressing the allegations and essentially said he and Saban were done! So needless to say the game between the Aggies and the Tide on October 8th will be the game of the year! Bama brings back Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young and a host of talented players on offense. They did lose seven players to the NFL draft and have to fill in two holes on the offensive line. Three wide receivers are gone. There are some gaps on defense, but once again it's the next man up.

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. UTAH ST	OCT. 15	@ TENNESSEE
SEP. 10	@ TEXAS	OCT. 22	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE
SEP. 17	VS. ULM	NOV. 5	@ LSU
SEP. 24	VS. VANDERBILT	NOV. 12	@ OLE MISS
OCT. 1	@ ARKANSAS	NOV. 19	VS. AUSTIN PEAY
OCT. 8	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 26	VS. AUBURN

2021 RECORD

OVERALL	13 - 2
CONFERENCE	7 - 1
HOME	7 - 0
AWAY	3 - 1
NEUTRAL	3 - 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALABAMA ATHLETICS

07

SOUTH CAROLINA



Last year, the Gamecock's exceeded expectations by going 7-6, and they return 15 starters from last year's team. They also took advantage of the transfer portal and picked up quarterback Spencer Rattler from OU. He's got tons of talent and was a Heisman hopeful in 2020, but things fell apart and before you knew it he was sitting the bench. Beamer was an ass start on the OU staff for two years while Rattler was there and had first hand knowledge of how good he could be. So he enticed the young man to make a move to the best conference in football. S. Carolina lost their two running backs and there is only one returning wide out that caught more than 31 passes last season. Beamer used the transfer portal to give Rattler some weapons including OU tight end Austin Stogner. The defense returns seven starters from last year's defense that gave up more than six yards a play to SEC offenses. The secondary was probably the strongest unit, and most of those players return this fall including cornerback Cam Smith.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETICS

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP 3	VS. GEORGIA STATE	OCT. 22	VS. TEXAS A&M
SEP. 10	@ ARKANSAS	OCT. 29	VS. MISSOURI
SEP 17	VS. GEORGIA	NOV. 5	@ VANDERBILT
SEP. 24	VS. CHARLOTTE	NOV. 12	@ FLORIDA
OCT. 1	VS. S. CAROLINA STATE	NOV. 19	VS. TENNESSEE
OCT 8	@ KENTUCKY	NOV. 26	@ CLEMSON



2021 RECORD

OVERALL	7 - 6
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	5 - 2
AWAY	1 - 4
NEUTRAL	1 - 0

08 OLE MISS



The Rebels bring back just 11 starters from last year's team, but their quarterback Matt Corral, who moved onto the NFL, is not one of them. After he was injured in last year's Sugar Bowl against Baylor, the Rebels were only able to score 7 points in the game. Kiffin has used the transfer portal to fill the holes, and the Rebels staff put together the second best portal class for the 2022 season. He also had five new coaches join his staff. Four-star quarterback prospect Jaxson Dart transferred from USC and has a good chance to start this fall. Ole Miss running backs Jerrion Ealy, Henry Parrish Jr. and Snoop Conner, who combined to gain close to 2,000 yards, will not return this fall. Kiffin picked up TCU transfer Zach Evans and SMU transfer Ulysses Bentley IV to fill their spots. Four of their best receivers left as well, so the Rebels found help from Louisville, Missouri and Mississippi transfers. D.J. Durkin left the Rebels to join the Aggies, and the defense at Ole Miss only returns six starters. Jumbo and crew will look forward to playing a much better game this year vs the Rebels.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLE MISS ATHLETICS

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP 3	VS. TROY	OCT 15	VS. AUBURN
SEP. 10	VS. CENTRAL ARKANSAS	OCT. 22	@ LSU
SEP. 17	@ GEORGIA TECH	OCT. 29	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP 24	VS. TULSA	NOV. 12	VS. ALABAMA
OCT. 1	VS. KENTUCKY	NOV. 19	@ ARKANSAS
OCT 8	@ VANDERBILT	NOV. 25	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

2021 RECORD

OVERALL	10 - 3
CONFERENCE	6 - 2
HOME	7 - 0
AWAY	2 - 2
NEUTRAL	1 - 1



09 FLORIDA



The Dan Mullen era is over at Florida, and the fans are excited for a fresh new start with 42 year old Billy Napier. He spent the last four seasons at University of Louisiana at Lafayette and amassed a record that included 40 wins, only 12 losses, and three consecutive 10 plus win seasons. He brings an offensive resume to Gainesville that fans are pumped about and brought some players with him too via the transfer portal. Napier wants to get the ground game going first, and Louisiana transfer running back Montrell Johnson should be just what the doctor ordered. At quarterback, the Gators return 6-4, 237-pound Anthony Richardson who has the size, frame and potential to be great under Billy's tutelage. The Gators receiving corps will be led by Justin Shorter and will be helped by the addition of Ricky Pearsall from Arizona State. The defense is happy to welcome back Ventrell Miller, who led the team in tackles in 2020 but missed most of last season to injury. On the back-side, Trey Dean is back at safety and was the team's leading tackler last season.

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. UTAH	OCT. 15	VS. LSU
SEP 10	VS KENTUCKY	OCT 29	VS. GEORGIA
SEP 17	VS. SOUTH FLORIDA	NOV 5	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP 24	@ TENNESSEE	NOV. 12	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA
OCT 1	VS EASTERN WASHINGTON	NOV 19	@ VANDERBILT
OCT. 8	VS. MISSOURI	NOV. 25	@ FLORIDA STATE



2021 RECORD

OVERALL	6 - 7
CONFERENCE	2 - 6
HOME	5 - 1
AWAY	1 - 4
NEUTRAL	0 - 2

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLORIDA ATHLETICS

10 AUBURN



The Tiger faithful want wins, and plenty of coaches have been run out of there with winning records. The offseason was full of rumors that Head Coach Bryan Harsin would join that group after a 6-7 record last year and lots of noise of players not liking his coaching style. There was a mass exodus of players including Bo Nix, who decided to take his talents to Oregon. For Aggie fans, this game could get even more interesting if former Aggie quarterback Zach Calzada is under center for this game. He will have to win the job over LSU transfer TJ Finley and Oregon transfer Robby Ashford. The Tigers also lost leading receiver Kobe Hudson who transferred to UCF. Tank Bigsby and Jarquez Hunter return in the backfield, and a good offensive line should help Harsin's running game be a major weapon. The defensive line is one of the strengths of the team, and they also added 6-6, 328 pound Jayson Jones from Oregon in the off season. The secondary lost three of its best players from a group that struggled at times last season.

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS MERCER	OCT. 15	@ OLE MISS
SEP. 10	VS SAN JOSE STATE	OCT. 29	VS. ARKANSAS
SEP. 17	VS. PENN STATE	NOV 5	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE
SEP. 24	VS. MISSOURI	NOV. 12	VS. TEXAS A&M
OCT. 1	VS. LSU	NOV. 19	VS. WESTERN KENTUCKY
OCT. 8	@ GEORGIA	NOV. 26	@ ALABAMA



2021 RECORD

OVERALL	6 - 7
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	4 - 3
AWAY	2 - 3
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

11

UMASS



The Minutemen Football team is the fourth oldest program in FBS. Their first season was in 1879. They left the Mid-American Conference after the 2015 season and currently play as an independent. UMASS is coached by Don Brown, who begins his second stint as their head coach after being named the head guy on November 22, 2021. Brown inherits a team that went 1-11 last season. Senior running back Ellis Merriweather carried the team last year by rushing for over 1,000 yards and scoring five touchdowns. He also had 22 receptions for 169 yards and a touchdown through the air. Sophomore Brady Olson is their quarterback and stands at 6'4. He completed 104 passes last season on 216 attempts as a freshman. #61 Max Longman returns at left tackle. At 6'4, 315 lbs he anchors the Minutemen offensive line. On defense, junior cornerback Josh Wallace is one of their best players. He broke up 16 passes last year with one interception and had 96 tackles.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UMASS ATHLETICS

2022 SCHEDULE

SEP 3	@ TULANE	OCT 15	VS BUFFALO
SEP 10	@ TOLEDO	OCT 29	VS. NEW MEXICO STATE
SEP 17	VS. STONY BROOK	NOV 4	@ JCONN
SEP 24	@ TEMPLE	NOV 12	@ ARKANSAS STATE
OCT 1	@ EASTERN MICHIGAN	NOV. 19	@ TEXAS A&M
OCT 8	VS. LIBERTY	NOV 26	VS. ARMY



2021 RECORD

OVERALL	1 - 11
CONFERENCE	0 - 0
HOME	1 - 5
AWAY	0 - 6
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

12

LSU



As if this game needed any more gasoline, the Aggies added fuel to the fire by getting former LSU QB Max Johnson and his tight end brother (a former LSU commit) to come play for the Aggies. There will be quite a battle to see who is behind center this fall but wouldn't it be interesting to see Max run out there on game day to play against his former team. Despite the fact that he led the team to a national championship just three seasons ago, Coach Ed Orgeron, got the boot, and Scott Woodward brought in former Notre Dame Coach Brian Kelly. If you think the fans in Baton Rouge are going to give Kelly some grace as he rebuilds the program, then you don't know LSU fans. His first task is to find a starting QB. Myles Brennan, Garrett Nussmeier and Arizona State transfer Jayden Daniels will all battle for the starting job. Their prime target will be Kayshon Boutte who is primed to be the next big wide receiving star for the Tigers. Safety Jay Ward anchors the returning defense that will have new faces from the portal from Arkansas, Ole St, Louisiana and Ohio State.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LSU ATHLETICS

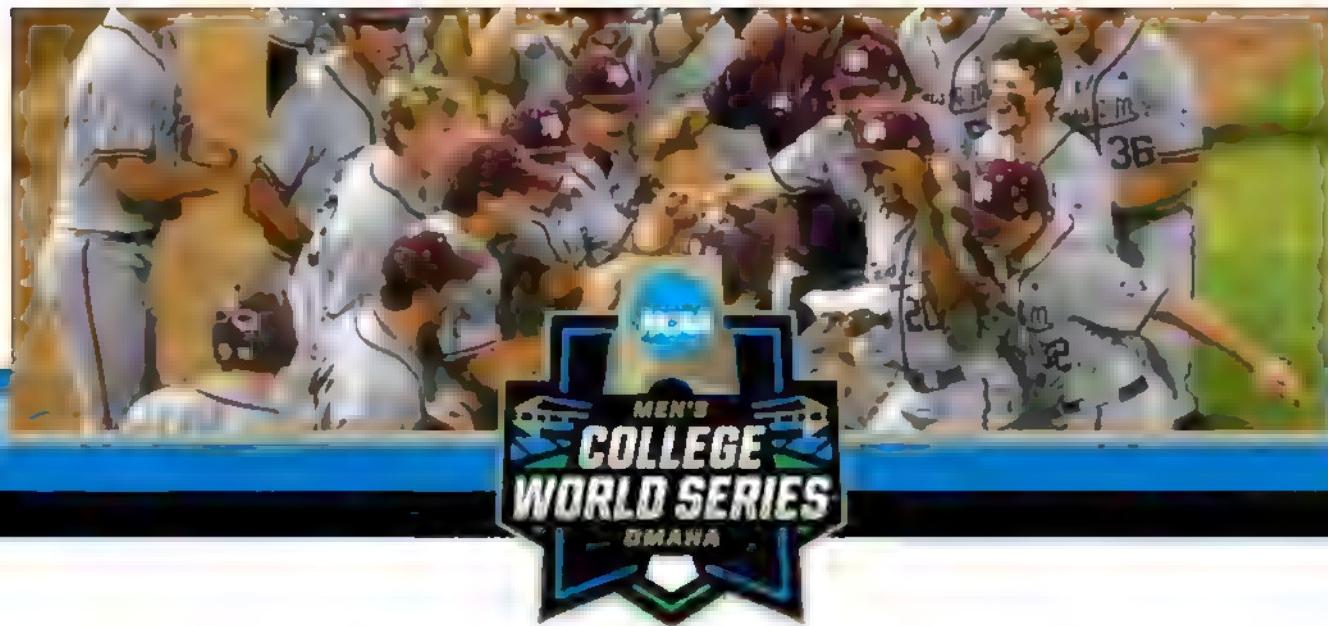
2022 SCHEDULE

SEP 4	VS FLORIDA STATE	OCT 15	@ FLORIDA
SEP 10	VS SOUTHERN	OCT. 22	VS. OLE MISS
SEP 17	VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE	NOV 5	VS. ALABAMA
SEP 24	VS. NEW MEXICO	NOV. 12	@ ARKANSAS
OCT 1	@ AUBURN	NOV. 19	VS. UAB
OCT 8	VS TENNESSEE	NOV. 26	@ TEXAS A&M



2021 RECORD

OVERALL	6 - 7
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	5 - 2
AWAY	1 - 4
NEUTRAL	0 - 1



AGGIE BASEBALL MAKES IT TO THE **FINAL FOUR**

BY ROB HAVENS '88

When Ross Bjork went out and hired the best baseball coach he could find, his expectations were that the candidate would build a program that would win championships and go to Omaha. He found that candidate just three hours north of here in Ft Worth, Texas.

Jim Schlossnagle had resurrected a TCU baseball program that hadn't been to the NCAA Tournament in nine years. He became the winningest coach in school history, taking the team to Omaha five times.

Schloss was looking for a new challenge, so he made the move to Aggieland. He assembled a grade A coaching staff and then used the portal to assemble a team. The Aggies had a rocky start, going 10-6, including a series loss to Penn at home. But then, the injury-plagued Aggies made a trip to Baton Rouge and won their first SEC Series. Nine days later they would travel to Austin and defeat the Longhorns, the previously ranked No. 1 team in the nation, 12-9 in front of the second largest crowd in Disch-Falk history.

The Aggies would come out of nowhere to win eight conference series and take the SEC West crown. They vaulted up the polls, and after winning two of three in Hoover, earned a No. 5 national seed. The team got to host the Regional, and after wins over Oral Roberts and Louisiana, they made it to the Regional Championship to take on the Horned Frogs.

Trailing 9-8 going to the last inning, the Aggies scored seven runs in front of a raucous crowd to finally beat TCU and advance to the Super Regional. The Ags took on No. 9 Louisville and won two 1-run games to advance to Omaha

The program had only won two games ever in Omaha and the previous two trips in 2017 and 2011 had gone 0-4. The Aggies took on Oklahoma in game one and starting pitcher Nathan Dettmer had a really tough outing. The Ags would lose 8-13 setting up a historic game vs tu on the biggest stage in college baseball.

The Aggies came back from a 0-2 deficit to defeat the Longhorns 10-2 in the biggest game in program history. The team would advance and play Notre Dame and Dettmer pitched the game of his life to help the Aggies beat the Irish 5-1 to make it into the final four. In its last game, the Aggies fell short and lost 1-5 to the Sooners to end the season.

This team took the 12thMan on an incredible ride and will go down in history as the most successful team in program history. Schlossnagle took a chance creating a program that he built from the ground up, and he is already seeing the results that he hoped would happen. The future seems bright in Aggieland!





JIMBO DEFENDS

"DESPICABLE" ALLEGATIONS

BY ROB HAVENS '88

On May 18, 2022, Nick Saban was at a donor event when he declared, "we were second in recruiting last year, A&M was first. A&M bought every player on their team. Made a deal for name, image and likeness. We didn't buy one player. I don't know if we're going to be able to sustain that in the future because more and more people are doing it."

It's important to note that these statements followed a season that the Aggies beat Saban's team at Kyle Field in front of a raucous crowd that rushed the field after

the game. It's probably equally important to state that Jimbo Fisher was the first Saban assistant to beat him on the gridiron. To follow up that big win, Fisher and staff assembled the best class in the history of signing classes, leaving Saban and company in the dust.

The 70-year old Bama coach is not used to getting beat on the field, though it happens occasionally. But he's really not used to losing recruiting wars. Rarely does someone that he offers a scholarship turn him down. With the loss of the national championship game fresh

on his mind, I'm sure Saban was not in the best of moods after Jimbo's promise to "beat their ass while he's there" came true in just a few short months.

On Thursday morning after Saban's comments went viral, Coach Fisher called a presser to address the allegations. "First of all I'd like to say that it's a shame that we have to do this. It's really despicable. It's despicable that someone can say things about somebody and more importantly, 17 year old kids. They're taking shots at 17 year-old kids and their families. That they broke state laws. That we bought every player on this group. We never bought anybody. No rules were broken. Nothing was done wrong. The way we do things, the ethics in which we do things. And these families, it's despicable that a reputable head coach can come out and say this when he doesn't get his way or things don't go his way

"The narcissist in him doesn't allow those things to happen and it's ridiculous when he's not on top. And the parity in college football that he's been talking about, go talk to coaches that have coached for him, you'll find out all the parity. Go dig into wherever he's been, you can find out anything and it's a shame that you have to sit here and defend 17 year-old kids and families. At Texas A&M 'cause we do things right, and we're always gonna do things right. But we are always gonna be here.

"We are doing a heck of a job, and these coaches have done a great job, our players have done a great job, the whole organization of recruiting people. It's despicable that we have to sit here at this level of ball and say these things and defend the people of this organization, the kids, 17 year-old kids and their families. It's amazing, some people think they are God, go dig into how God did his deal, you may find out about the guy a lot of things that you don't want to know. We build him up to be the Czar of football, go dig into his past or anybody who's ever coached with him, you can find out anything that you want to find out about what he

does and how he does it.

"And it's despicable. It really is and it's a shame we have to sit up here and have this conversation about the things we do. And is it personal to us? Yes it is. It's personal to A&M, it's personal to our players, it's personal to our coaches and everybody involved. And I know the guy. I know him really well. It's amazing that we're allowed to do those things. It's really despicable. And I hate it for our players that are coming here that did things the right way, have done things the right way, will continue to do things the right way, I apologize to you the way that people have insulted you publically, the way they are doing. And our fans, I apologize to you guys for people saying those things about Texas A&M. I promise you this, there are no violations there are nothing wrong. This is the second time we have had to do this with grown men. Who don't get their way and want to pout and throw a fit and act up. Just go ask all the people that have worked for him, they know exactly what he's about. I always said this, my dad always told me this 'When people show you who they are, believe 'em.' He's showing you who he is."

After the emotional opening statement, Jimbo was asked if he had talked to Saban, he replied "no, oh he's called." Then he was asked a follow up if he just didn't take the call he said, "not going to, we're done!"

When asked how disappointing it was to hear him make those remarks since they had a past relationship where Saban was his mentor, Jimbo exclaimed "Look you coach with people like Bobby Bowden and learn how to do things. You coach with other people and learn how not to do things! There's a reason I've never gone back to work with him. With opportunities. Don't want to be associated with him."

Jimbo did think it was funny that just before Nick Saban made those comments, he was soliciting funds from the crowd. He continued, "It's amazing wasn't it? Well when

you walk on water I guess it don't matter"

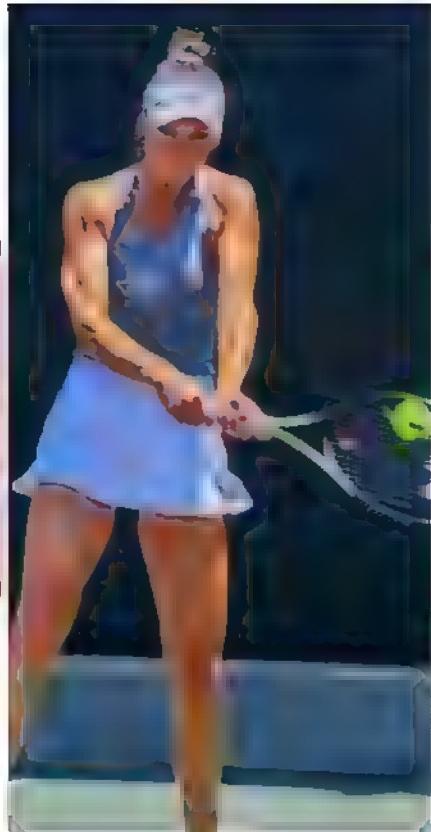
Coach Fisher said he hadn't held the presser to defend anybody he was just giving the truth and that he had nothing to hide and the program had nothing to hide. "It would be interesting if everybody could say that."

When asked about collectives, Fisher admitted they have them but said he is not involved with that and has nothing to do with it. He explained, "It's not what we do and what we are about... I'm gonna tell you one thing, you can call me anything you want to call me. You ain't gonna call me a cheat. I don't cheat and I don't lie! I learned that when I was a kid, if you did the old man slapped you side of the head Maybe somebody should have slapped him. That's one thing you don't do. Now you are fooling with our name. You're messing with Texas A&M's name and those kids' name and our name and I won't put up with any of 'em. I ain't into that. I wasn't raised that way."

With SEC spring meetings, SEC media days and the game against Alabama on October 8th coming up, Jimbo was asked if it would be awkward to face Saban. "Awkward about what. I don't mind confrontation, lived with it my whole life. I kind of like it myself. Backing away from it was not how I was raised."

I asked Coach Fisher what he says to his players regarding this, and he answered, "Keep doing the right thing, believe in yourself and I'm sorry people say those things about you. But I will defend you because I know nothing was wrong."

The presser was amazing, as Coach Fisher stood up for his program and for Texas A&M. Even though Saban later said he shouldn't have called out any schools specifically, the line has been drawn in the sand, and the October 8th game in Tuscaloosa should be the biggest game in college football this season. ■



SEC CHAMPIONS HAVE ELITE SEASON

BY ROB HAVENS '88





The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team earned two SEC Championships en route to an Elite 8 finish in the NCAA Tournament. It was the greatest season in program history, as the team posted 33 match wins against only two losses during the year. They advanced to the National Quarterfinals for only the second time in program history.

The Aggies moved all the way up to the #1 ranking after winning the SEC Tournament Championship, but they were slighted by the selection committee who gave them the #7 overall national seed forcing them to play the #2 Sooners in the quarterfinals.

The team finished the regular season with a program best 27-1 overall record, including a perfect record in SEC play. Coach Mark Weaver was named the SEC Coach of the year. He is the first Aggie coach to receive that award. After the regular season, he said, "It has just been an amazing regular season. We were undefeated at home, undefeated in true road matches, and took our only loss during the ITA Indoors. To finish the regular season with the most wins in program history — those are the sorts of things that you dream of as a head coach."

Texas A&M didn't settle for just one SEC Championship. They cruised through the SEC Tournament and collected the program's first tourney title as well. With the NCAA

Tournament around the corner, the Aggies had their eyes set on winning a natty.

A&M Corpus Christi rolled into town for the first-round match, and the Aggies swept the Islanders. In the second round, the Ags took on the Baylor Bears and dominated them 4-1 to advance to the Sweet 16. Next the team faced Vanderbilt, who they had already beaten twice before this season. Once again the Aggies swept the Dores and earned a trip to Champaign Illinois for the Elite 8.

After dropping the doubles point in the quarterfinals vs #2 Oklahoma the Aggies came out strong in the singles competition and won five first sets. Mary Stoiana evened the match with a straight sets win. Jayci Goldsmith put the Aggies on top with a straight set win of her own. A loss on court one evened the match before Gianna Pielet 6-2, 6-3 win gave the Aggies a 3-2 match lead. Unfortunately, the Ags lost the final two matches bringing an end to their storybook season.

Coach Weaver remarked after the match, "It was definitely the heartbreaker of all heartbreakers." Our girls battled all year and came up short in only two matches. Weaver knows the future is bright, though. "The good news is that we will be back. This was only the beginning of something special here in Aggieland." ■



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A&M SPORT CLUBS THRIVE IN '22

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Our staff at Aggieland Illustrated prides itself on giving our readers an insider's look at Aggie athletics. Although we primarily focus on our D1 sports programs, our coverage of the student athletes that compete in Sport Clubs at Texas A&M has become a favorite feature for our readers.

Texas A&M Sport Clubs Association began in 1974 with just a few clubs. This year over 2,500 Aggie students will compete against students from other collegiate institutions at the state, regional or national level in 37 sport clubs.

In the beginning there were groups of students that wanted to get together and play. Now the program is full of dedicated athletes who compete on a national stage. Club members have become Olympians, and one even went on to compete in the Tour de France.

Things have changed over the years as this program has become

an example for others to follow as one of the premier organizations of its kind in the country. Sport Clubs Director Keith Joseph told us, "What our program looks like right now, is not what it looked like ten years ago, it's not what it looked like 20 years ago. It's just a continual progression of getting better and more established and more structured over most programs in the country. We get calls all the time on how we do things because our program has excelled so far development wise, athletic wise, administratively, things like that."

Our student athletes compete at the highest level and over the last 48 years have brought home 380 national championships. As a result, athletes from all over the country have chosen to come to A&M to go to school and continue to compete in the sport they love. In fact, according to Joseph, some students have turned down

scholarships to other D1 and D2 schools because they wanted to be Aggies, and they were able to bring their talents to one of the Club teams. Money raising events put on by clubs like the annual high school lacrosse tournament, have brought thousands of people to Aggieland and exposed them to our school and as a result become a recruiting tool for Texas A&M.

One of the best parts about the program is that each club is run by the students on the team. So not only do they get to compete in the sport they love, but they also learn leadership skills that will last them a lifetime.

Sport Clubs offers a variety of different opportunities for those wanting to continue to compete at the highest level as well as students interested in trying something for the first time and becoming part of a team. ■

SOUTHSIDE REC CENTER OPENING

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Texas A&M is excited to announce the grand opening of its second satellite rec center on the south side of campus. This project started years ago as main campus continued to attract more and more students. A strategic planning process began, and the decision was made to build two satellite rec centers. A lot of thanks goes to the students who voted yes during the "Vote Rec" campaign to increase their student fees at the time to build the new facilities.

The Polo Road Rec Center opened in January 2021 and around the same time they broke ground on the Southside Rec Center. The new

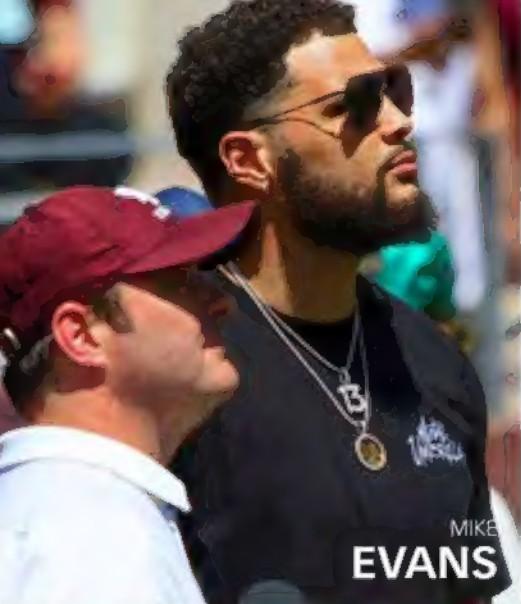
facility is located off Bizzell Street across from Krueger, Mosher, and Rudder Halls and adjacent to the Texas A&M Golf Course.

The 63,000-square-foot facility offers strength and conditioning areas, indoor court space for basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer, a bouldering wall, locker rooms, and other amenities.

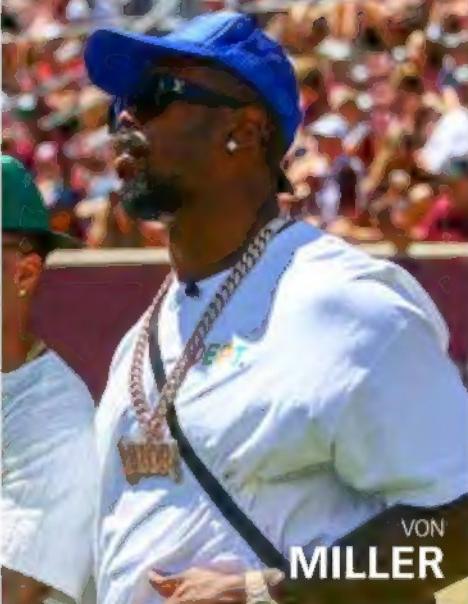
"We couldn't be more excited to expand recreational opportunities and promote activity and wellness for our Aggie community," said the director of the Department of Recreational Sports, Rick Hall. "The important benefits of campus recreation include physical

wellbeing, stress reduction, and self-confidence. We are thrilled to provide another convenient, on-campus facility to meet the needs of the students, faculty, and staff."

The Southside Rec Center will be a convenient option for students on the south side of campus, who will no longer have to trek all the way across campus to workout at the main facility. Hall explained, "Many dedicated folks have been working countless hours to make these satellite recreational facilities happen and to give our students convenient, first class facilities of which they can be proud." ■



THE 12TH MAN



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